



BURLINGTON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BUSINESS LEGISLATION BULLETIN July 12, 2013

In an effort to keep you apprised of legislative issues affecting business, the Burlington Chamber sends the **Business Legislation Bulletin** whenever new government policy or legislation relating to business is issued.

Below you'll find information on the recent changes at the Ontario College of Trades as well as an update on the requirement for WSIB coverage in the construction industry.

COLLEGE OF TRADES: NEW FEE STRUCTURE AND PROJECTED COSTS

- The College will be run on a cost-recovery basis--the government will not generate any direct revenues from member fees.
- Workers in 22 out of 157 trades are required to register and pay College fees. The 22 compulsory trades are listed here: <http://www.collegeoftrades.ca/trades/compulsory-trades>.
- Membership is voluntary for all other trades.
- The College has announced a new fee structure to be implemented in spring 2013, when it begins to receive members.
- The fee for apprentices is \$60 per year and the fee for journeypersons is \$120 per year. These are the lowest regulatory college membership fees in Ontario.
- The principle of "one member/one fee" will be in place so that employers with multiple employees and tradespersons with multiple certifications will pay only one basic fee of \$120. Information on the fee structure can be found here: <http://www.collegeoftrades.ca/wp-content/uploads/Memb-Fees-NR-and-Backgrounder-FINAL2.pdf>.
- In the College's first full year of operations, the annual budget is expected to be approximately \$30 million.
- It is estimated that the downstream cost to consumers will be approximately 1 cent for every \$10-15 thousand dollars of goods and services purchased.
- The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is currently working with the Woodstock and Greater Kingston Chambers to develop a survey which will be distributed to the Chamber

Network once completed. The Greater Kingston Chamber is also working with Queen's University's intern research group to carry out the survey.

- The OCC does not have a specific position on the existence of the College of Trades. However, the only OCC policy resolution stipulates that the College should be equipped with a participatory and inclusive governance structure that will enable the review of apprenticeship ratios based on an objective analysis of the impacts on all participants in the apprenticeship system.

WSIB - BILL 119 UPDATE

- On January 1, 2013 Bill 119, the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Amendment Act, 2008* comes into effect.
- It requires independent operators, sole proprietors, some business partners and executive officers *who work in construction* to have WSIB coverage.
- Home renovators and firms with one executive officer or partner are exempt from mandatory coverage (the employer may select one executive officer or partner to apply for an exemption).
- For more information, including how to pre-register, please see the WSIB's website: www.BeRegisteredBeReady.ca

The OCC does not support mandatory WSIB coverage in the construction industry and has voiced its concerns to the Government of Ontario.